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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 16 | Humidity 35% Partly sunny Sensex 80,722 | Nifty 24,825 | Gold 1,43,000 | Silver 2,65,652 | Dollar 91.69 | Euro 109.23 | GBP 125.49

UNION BUDGET 2026

» Relief just dent in rare disease treatment costs PAGE 4

» 'Strong foundation for Micro & Small Enterprises'

» Big injustice towards Karnataka, say CM and Ministers

» No bullet train, be happy with high-speed train network

» What changes, what stays same: Budget in 32 points PAGE 5

Errant motorists ended up chipping in ₹470 every minute to state coffers in terms of traffic penalties in 2025. Aided by strict and automated enforcement, fine collection was highest in last decade and 300% more than in 2024

BENGALURU IS CUTTING IT FINE

₹251.26 crore fine collection in 2025 driven by focused campaigns, say traffic police

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Bengaluru motorists unwittingly contributed a staggering ₹251.26 crore to the city coffers in 2025 through traffic fines, an amount that works out to nearly ₹470 every minute. The record collection marks the highest in the past decade and is nearly 300% more than the ₹62.82 crore collected in 2024.

A senior traffic police official told Bangalore Mirror, "The jump in collections this year is a combination of stricter enforcement, awareness campaigns, and effective policy implementation. Traffic violations were being overlooked earlier, but this year we ensured that rules were followed and pending fines were cleared."

Traffic fine trend

Between 2014 and 2016, collections stood at ₹65–70 crore annually, averaging just ₹125 per minute. The introduction of automated traffic cameras in 2017 doubled the rate to around ₹215 per minute, with total fines crossing ₹112 crore. However, by 2023, thanks to a

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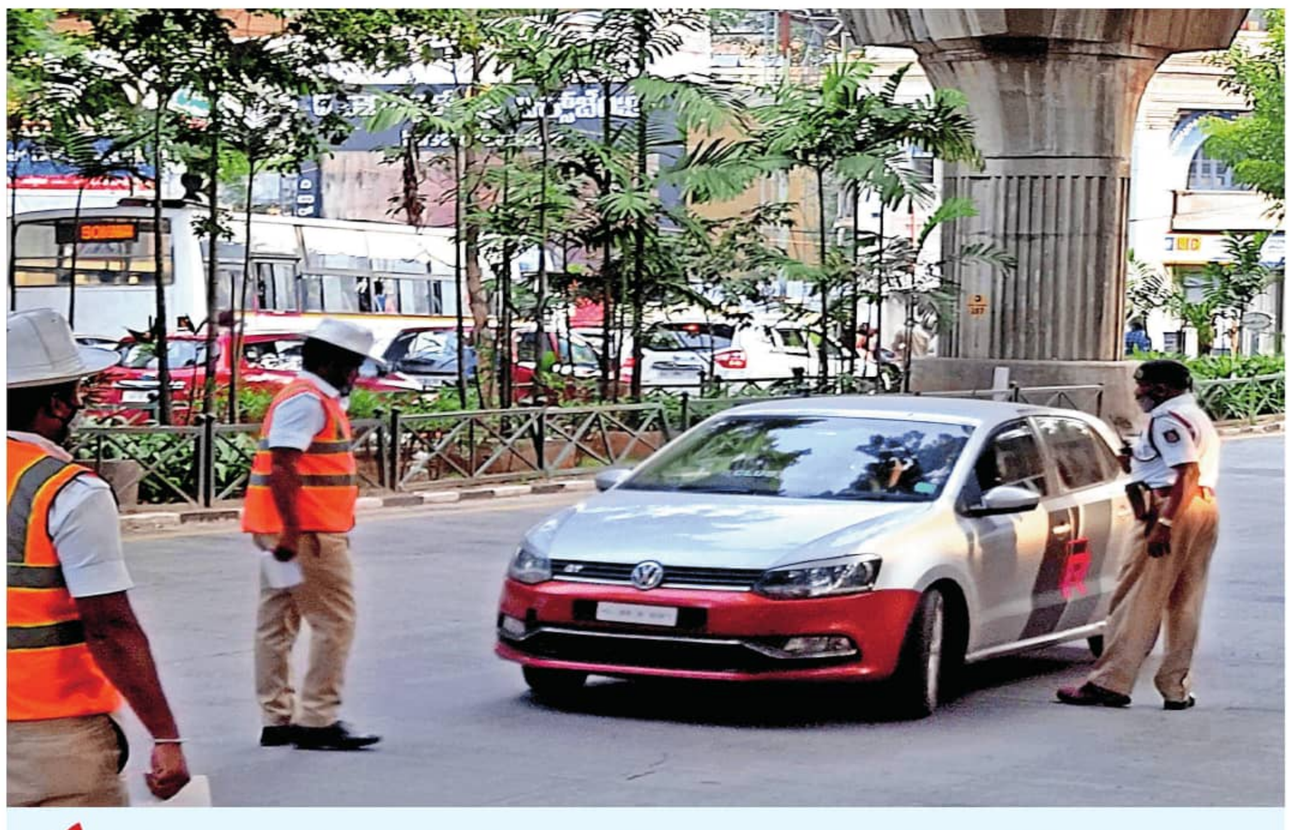

"When motorists know they can be fined instantly, they are more likely to follow rules. This is how technology is turning traffic fines into both a deterrent and a source of revenue for public safety

— Chiatravathi Gowda, techie

Handle with care

As studies, data point to deep psychological distress among men, who don't seek help easily, NIMHANS' new programme to bridge the gap

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Men often experience and express emotional distress very differently from women. Many tend to internalise the pressures of work, family responsibilities, and everyday life, having been conditioned from a young age to manage problems on their own, remain strong, and avoid showing vulnerability. While this expectation of resilience may appear functional on the surface, research suggests it often prevents men from recognising early signs of distress or seeking timely support.

PAGE 9: FRIENDS IN NEED

National and international data consistently show that men account for a disproportionate share of adverse outcomes- over 70% of suicide deaths in India are among men, particularly those in the working-age group.

An Indian study conducted in 2019 by a Psychiatric Social Work trainee at NIMHANS on the psychosocial status and help-seeking behaviour of married men experiencing marital conflict found that psychological distress was common across men from different professional and educational backgrounds, particularly among those aged 30 to 54 years. The study showed that distress was present regardless of whether marriages were arranged or by choice, and could emerge at any point in married life,

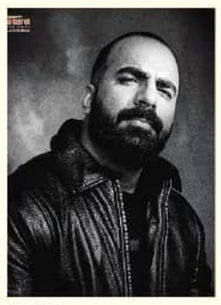
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Stories to savour

Atta Galatta is bringing 'Divine Delicacies', a unique experience where samples of prasadams from various temples will be served along with stories of places of worship and the perceived food preferences of the divine. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 8, 12.30 pm**

02 Ballads of the heart



Faheem Abdullah, the Kashmiri singer-songwriter behind deeply resonant tracks like Saiyaara, Ishq, Ehsaas, and Sajde, whose music has quietly become the soundtrack to longing, love, and introspection for a new generation, is set to perform in a Valentine's Day concert in Bengaluru. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; When: February 14, 7.30 pm**

03 Wondrous weekends

Ranga Shankara returns with its signature intimate storytelling programme, Little Cloud, packed with an enchanting experience of creativity, laughter and imagination. The sessions are held for children aged 4 to 6 every Saturday and Sunday. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: Until March 15, 10 am**

04 In the groove

Known for his soulful vocals and heartfelt compositions, Gajendra Verma will be performing live, bringing a night of music, emotions and memories. **Where: Orion Mall, Rajajinagar; When: February 7, 6 pm**

05 Fusion of realms

The Sixth Sense, India's first and largest multidisciplinary immersive festival, conceptualised and developed by Swordfish, the creators of Echoes of Earth festival, brings together art, music, technology and nature to rekindle connection with the natural world. **Where: Alembic City, Whitefield; When: February 5 to 22**

BESCOM strained under ₹2,760 cr power dues

With growing amount of arrears yet to be cleared by local bodies across Karnataka, structured payment mechanism is necessary to prevent burden on state's power utilities, says official

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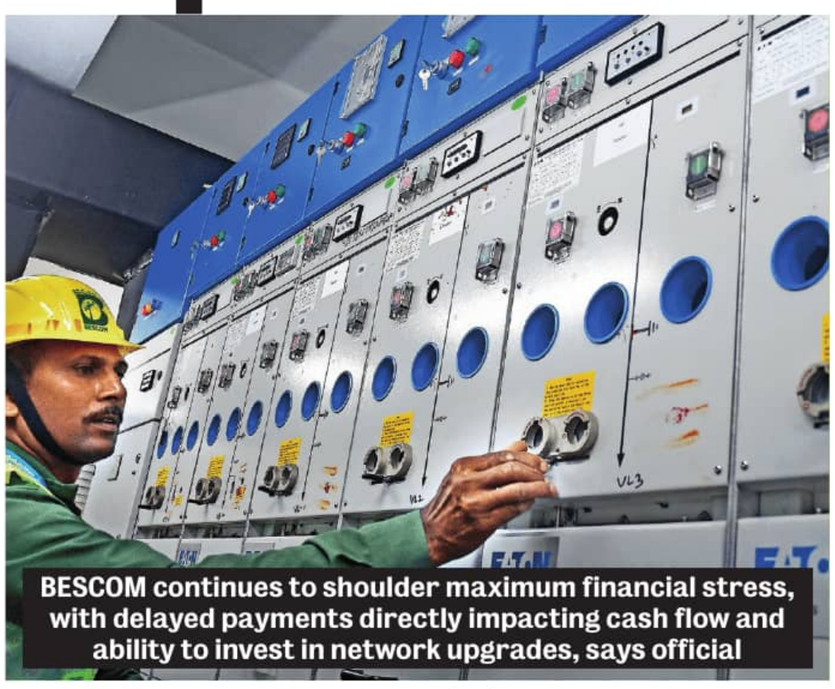

BESCOM continues to shoulder maximum financial stress, with delayed payments directly impacting cash flow and ability to invest in network upgrades, says official

Miss a power bill and the connection is cut. Skip property tax and recovery teams come knocking. But when civic bodies default, there is neither disconnection nor consequence. Across 18 districts in Karnataka, local bodies have left unpaid electricity dues of Rs 4,189.18 crore till October this fiscal year, largely for drinking water schemes, with districts under Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) carrying the biggest share of the burden. Districts under BESCOM alone owe Rs 2,760.96 crore, making it the most impacted utility among the three major power distribution companies, followed by Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM) and Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (MESCOM). The dues are owed by a mix of city corporations, municipalities, town panchayats, gram panchayats and taluk and zilla panchayats that draw power round the year for water supply.

BESCOM burden

According to the data, within BESCOM limits, Bengaluru Urban district's urban local bodies owe Rs 14.03 crore, while rural local bodies owe Rs 211.63 crore. Bengaluru Rural district has pending bills of Rs 8.98 crore from urban bodies and a much higher Rs 316.67 crore from rural institutions. Ramanagara owes Rs 158.39 crore, while Kolar tops the list with Rs 673.69 crore. Chikkaballapur, Tumakuru, Chitradurga and Davanagere districts together add another Rs 1,381.77 crore in dues. Energy department data shows that rural local bodies alone account for Rs 2,667.71 crore of BESCOM's outstanding amount, highlighting a clear imbalance between urban and rural payments.

Rural drag

The trend across years shows a sharp rise in unpaid bills. BESCOM's dues stood at Rs 1,148.75 crore in 2023–24, jumped to Rs 2,184.13 crore in 2024–25 and have now touched Rs 2,760.97 crore in 2025–26. In comparison, MESCOM's dues rose from Rs 81.51 crore to Rs 195.97 crore over the same period, while GESCOM's arrears increased from Rs 487.17 crore to Rs 1,232.25 crore. Officials point out that rural local bodies are consistently the biggest defaulters, with far higher arrears than their urban counterparts.

Water power

While MESCOM, covering coastal and Malnad districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru, has relatively lower dues, its local bodies still owe Rs 195.7 crore this year, including Rs 181.56 crore from rural areas. "In contrast, BESCOM continues to shoulder the maximum financial stress, with delayed payments directly impacting its cash flow and ability to invest in network upgrades," said an energy official warning that unless local bodies clear dues or a structured payment mechanism is enforced, the growing arrears linked to water supply schemes could further strain the state's largest power utility.

HC sounds alarm on retaliation against lawyers

The Karnataka High Court has raised alarm over what it described as a troubling rise in litigants filing criminal cases against lawyers representing the opposite side, warning that such actions pose a serious threat to the justice system.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, while hearing a petition filed by an advocate seeking quashing of criminal proceedings against him, observed that lawyers were increasingly being targeted not for any wrongdoing but merely for discharging their professional duties. The court cautioned that if this trend continues, it could deter advocates from representing clients fearlessly.

Calling the practice a "dangerous trend," the judge noted that criminal law was being misused as a pressure tactic to harass and intimidate legal professionals.

The court emphasised that police authorities must exercise restraint before registering cases against advocates. It directed that a preliminary inquiry should be conducted to ascertain whether allegations made against lawyers have any substance, instead of mechanically registering FIRs.

The High Court stayed further investigation against the advocate and said the larger issue concerning the protection of lawyers from frivolous criminal cases would require deeper examination. The matter has been posted for further hearing, during which the court is expected to lay down clearer safeguards to prevent misuse of criminal law against members of the legal profession.

— BMB

Plastic bottles banned in govt offices across K'taka

The Karnataka government has banned the use of plastic bottles in all state government offices and directed departments to switch to eco-friendly alternatives. In a circular issued on Saturday, the government also mandated that only Karnataka Milk Federation's Nandini products be used at official meetings, programmes and events held in government offices. The directive has been sent to all Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, the Legislative Assembly and Council secretariats, universities and heads of all departments. The move is part of a larger push to adopt environment-friendly practices across government offices and reduce plastic pollution, with officials instructed to ensure strict compliance across the state. **— BMB**

SIT has begun probe into CJ Roy's death, says Home Minister

Team constituted under leadership of Joint Commissioner of Police Vamshi Krishna have reportedly started their investigation

J Roy's last rites were performed on Sunday

The Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday said that an SIT constituted to probe the death of CJ Roy, Founder and Chairman of the Confident Group, has begun the probe. Meanwhile, the last rites of Roy, a real estate tycoon who was found dead at his office on January 30 with bullet injuries, were performed on Sunday in the presence of family members, friends and admirers.

He allegedly died by suicide amid Income Tax raids at his premises. A native of Kerala, he was laid to rest at Confident Cascade near Bannerghatta, as per his wishes, after a prayer at the church, sources said.

"A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted under the leadership of Joint Commissioner of Police Vamshi Krishna; they have started the investigation from yesterday itself. Until the report comes we cannot say anything, otherwise it will be speculation and not definite information. So we will have to wait," Parameshwara told reporters in response to a question on the probe into Roy's death.

Responding to questions on allegations by some Congress leaders that agencies like IT, ED and CBI were being misused by the central government, and whether there were any links to upcoming polls in Kerala, he said, "Without knowing or having information, we cannot say anything. Let the probe report come, after that everything will be known." An Unnatural Death Report (UDR) has been registered at Ashok Nagar Police Station in connection with the death of Roy, who was Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic.

Roy had allegedly shot himself when the Income Tax team was conducting searches in his office in Bengaluru, according to police sources.

His brother CJ Babu on Saturday had claimed that Roy was under pressure due to the Income Tax department's proceedings.

Babu on Sunday speaking to reporters after the last rites said, he last spoke to his brother on January 30 morning, as Roy had called him a couple of times to enquire as to when he will be back from Thailand, and did not mention anything about IT raids during the conversation. **— PTI**

Climate balance wobbles under February's shifting skies

Month shows widening gap between day and night temperatures, along with unexpected rains in past years, pointing to increasing instability in season once marked by reliable weather

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February has begun on an uncertain note for Bengaluru, coming close on the heels of unexpected drizzles in January, a month that is typically dry for the city. With La Nina conditions now receding and the possibility of El Nino developing later in the year, weather experts say Bengaluru could be heading into a phase of greater variability.

Data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru, suggests that even traditionally stable months like February are showing signs of growing extremes in both temperature and rainfall.

Historically known as one of Bengaluru's most comfortable months, February has increasingly delivered surprises over the past 15 years. IMD records show that daytime temperatures are frequently crossing the 34 degrees Celsius mark, with highs of 35.5 degrees recorded in 2016, 2017 and 2019.

The trend has continued in recent years, with the mercury touching 34.4 degrees in February 2025 and 34.5 degrees in 2024. At the same time, nights can turn unexpectedly cool. Minimum temperatures have dropped to 12.8 degrees in 2023, while older records show even sharper dips. This widening gap between day and night temperatures points to increasing instability during a month that was once considered reliably mild.

An IMD official said, "Rainfall during February remains rare, but when it does arrive, it tends to be sudden and intense. Several years, including 2020, 2023, 2024 and 2025, recorded no rainfall at all during the month. In contrast, 2019 saw a sharp 58 mm downpour in just 24 hours, while 2011 recorded over 22 mm in a single spell."

IMD data shows that February has witnessed an all-time one-day rainfall of more than 67 mm, indicating that while such events are uncommon, they are not unprecedented. Meteorologists point out that these isolated rain spells are becoming more noticeable as atmospheric conditions change.

The broader climatological picture offers further context. Bengaluru receives an average annual rainfall of around 1,078 mm, spread across nearly 63 rainy days.

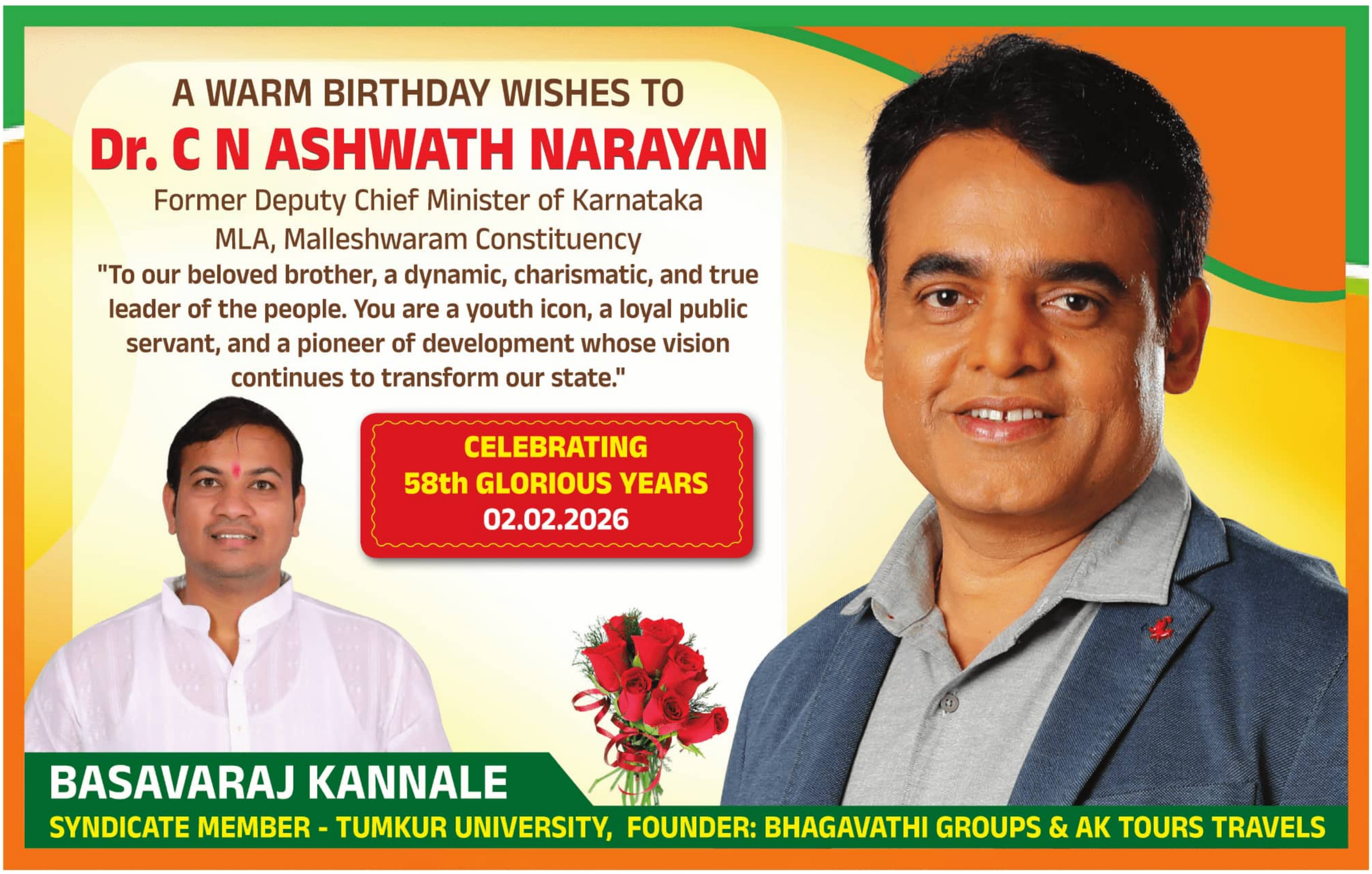
The heaviest rainfall is concentrated between August and October, with September alone accounting for over 200 mm on average. Pre-monsoon showers typically begin in April and strengthen through May, accompanied by frequent thunderstorms.

Despite moderate temperatures through most of the year, these intense and short-duration rain events often strain the city's infrastructure, leading to waterlogging and flooding during the late monsoon.

IMD officials say while Bengaluru still enjoys relatively mild climate compared to many Indian cities, increasing frequency of weather extremes may still be cause for concern

IMD officials note that while Bengaluru still enjoys a relatively mild climate compared to many Indian cities, the increasing frequency of weather extremes is a cause for concern.

"With global climate drivers in flux and early signs of erratic behaviour already visible this year, February's unpredictability may well be a signal of the months ahead. For a city accustomed to steady seasonal patterns, the changing skies underscore the need to prepare for greater weather uncertainty," an official added.


A WARM BIRTHDAY WISHES TO
Dr. C N ASHWATH NARAYAN
Former Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka
MLA, Malleshwaram Constituency
"To our beloved brother, a dynamic, charismatic, and true leader of the people. You are a youth icon, a loyal public servant, and a pioneer of development whose vision continues to transform our state."
CELEBRATING
58th GLORIOUS YEARS
02.02.2026
BASAVARAJ KANNALE
SYNDICATE MEMBER - TUMKUR UNIVERSITY, FOUNDER: BHAGAVATHI GROUPS & AK TOURS TRAVELS

Patient groups say customs exemptions help little without sustained government funding support for rare disease treatment across the country

Duty cuts ease imports, rare disease costs remain crushing nationwide

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The Union Budget 2026 announced targeted relief for cancer patients by exempting basic customs duty on 17 essential cancer drugs and medicines, a move aimed at reducing treatment costs.

The government has also extended customs duty exemptions to cover personal imports for seven additional rare diseases, offering some relief to families who depend on expensive imported medicines and medical foods that are not easily available in India. However, rare disease patients and advocacy groups say the relief falls far short of addressing the core challenge: the unaffordable cost of treatment.

Many rare disease therapies cost between ₹50 lakh and ₹75 lakh per patient per year, placing them far beyond the reach of most families. While the exemption may marginally lower import-related expenses, experts argue that tax relief alone cannot substitute for sustained government funding, particularly for patients who depend entirely on public support under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), 2021.

"In general, we welcome the customs exemption. But this does not solve the main challenge of the cost of the drug itself. No parents can afford an average cost of ₹50 to ₹75 lakh per year per patient under Group 3. Even the NPRD limit is only ₹50 lakh per patient, one time. In the case of special formula diets, it may benefit very few families who are above the middle class.

Advocates highlight unutilised rare disease funds and missing exemptions for commercial imports of life-saving therapies

Though cancer drugs and some rare imports get duty relief, therapies costing ₹50–75 lakh yearly remain unaffordable, with advocates demanding reliable public funding beyond limited NPRD support for families nationwide

Sustainable government funding is the only solution for rare disease patients, not tax exemption," said Prasanna Shirol, Co-founder and Executive Director, Organization for Rare Disease.

Navintara Kamath, Co-founder, Niemann-Pick India Charitable Trust, said that while extending duty exemption for personal imports reflects positive intent, it offers limited relief to families who rely entirely on government support. She pointed out that a substantial portion of the FY 2025–26 rare disease allocation remained unutilised and is at risk of lapsing, which the government should have acknowledged and ensured was used in time.

Manjit Singh, President, Lysosomal Storage Disorders Support Society, said rare disease patients cannot benefit from personal duty relief when they cannot afford medicines in the first place without government support. The absence of exemptions for commercial imports of life-saving ultra-rare therapies, he added, leaves critical gaps in access and affordability.

'AI doesn't benefit agriculture'

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday criticised the Centre's proposal to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in agriculture, arguing that technology-driven platforms cannot substitute for concrete policy support to address farmers' distress.

His remarks came after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech, announced the launch of Bharat-VISTAAR, a multilingual AI-based platform that will integrate AgriStack portals and the ICAR package on agricultural practices with AI systems. The initiative is aimed at improving productivity, strengthening farm-level decision-making, and reducing risks through customised advisory services.

Questioning the approach, Shivakumar said the Centre was speaking about deploying AI even for schemes like MGNREGA to decide wages, while failing to ensure timely payments during peak agricultural seasons. "AI does not benefit agriculture. What farmers need is real support," he said.

He further stressed that crops should be encouraged for silk production and criticised the Centre for not increasing sugar prices for years. Shivakumar warned that continued inaction could push cooperative sugar mills towards closure, leaving cane growers in five districts of the region facing mounting losses and uncertainty. **–ANI**

FKCCI thumbs-up to growth-driven budget

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has welcomed the Union Budget, describing it as forward-looking and action-oriented, reinforcing India's growth momentum while maintaining fiscal discipline. FKCCI said the strong focus on manufacturing, IT sector growth, MSME financing, infrastructure expansion, and ease of doing business aligns closely with industry priorities and employment generation. The emphasis on trust-based governance, simplified compliance, and sustained public capital expenditure is expected to create a stable and predictable policy environment for businesses.

FKCCI President Uma Reddy said measures such as the Rs 10,000 crore SME Growth Fund, mandatory adoption of TReDS for CPSE procurement, revival of legacy industrial clusters, and targeted tax and customs reforms will improve liquidity, competitiveness, and formalisation of MSMEs, strengthening India's manufacturing ecosystem and export potential.

For Karnataka, which hosts a large base of MSMEs, start-ups, technology firms, and export-oriented manufacturing units, the Budget's focus on MSME credit flow, logistics infrastructure, electronics and semiconductor manufacturing, and Tier-II and Tier-III city development is particularly encouraging. FKCCI also highlighted the importance of the Bharat Vistar initiative for traditional and agro-based industries such as nuts, coconut, and sandalwood. The proposed high-speed rail corridors connecting Bengaluru to key economic hubs were termed a welcome step. Overall, FKCCI said the Budget strikes a fine balance between growth, reforms, and inclusion. **–BMB**

KASSIA hails growth push for MSEs

The Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) has welcomed the Union Budget, stating that it highlights both new opportunities and areas needing stronger policy focus for micro, small and emerging enterprises (MSEs). KASSIA president B R Ganesh Rao said the Budget's thrust on strengthening domestic manufacturing, scaling up MSEs and expanding infrastructure reflects a holistic development approach.

He noted that announcements such as the ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund, the ₹4,000 crore top-up to the Self-Reliance India Fund and targeted support for traditional sectors are expected to provide critical impetus to micro and small enterprises. These measures, he said, will improve access to capital and help nurture competitive, export-oriented and technology-enabled small businesses that form the backbone of India's industrial ecosystem.

KASSIA appreciated the government's recognition of the role of MSEs in sustaining growth and employment, while stressing that simplifying compliance, reducing input costs and improving credit processes remain essential. Rao said a comprehensive textile programme, including the National Fibre Scheme and mega textile parks, will modernise clusters and expand market access for small weavers and apparel manufacturers.

He added that support for capital goods and container manufacturing will strengthen domestic capability for precision and engineering MSMEs, while infrastructure investments could boost localisation for auto component makers. KASSIA also welcomed steps such as compulsory TReDS usage, supply-chain reforms and enhanced trade finance, stating that the Budget 2026–27 is growth-oriented and broadly enabling for micro and small industries. **–BMB**

Bullet train hopes remain distant for Bengaluru; high-speed rail project brings some cheer

'Nothing in it for Bengaluru'

Bengalureans were left disappointed by the Union Budget, which offered little beyond a mention of the high-speed train network linking Bengaluru to neighbouring cities like Hyderabad and Chennai.

High-speed train is only gain?

However, the announcement brought little cheer, as the Chennai corridor is not new; survey work for the project has been ongoing for some time.

Project progress

Despite the bullet train between the southern capitals still being a distant dream, the Mysuru-Bengaluru-Chennai high-speed rail project is moving slowly on the ground. The high-speed corridor, approved several years ago, aims to cut travel time significantly. Currently, the fastest train between Bengaluru and Mysuru, the Vande Bharat, takes around two hours, while the Bengaluru-Chennai journey takes over four hours. The proposed high-speed train is expected to reduce travel time between Mysuru and Chennai to just about 1 hour and 10 minutes over 435 km.

Strategic importance

Officials highlight that the Mysuru-Bengaluru-Chennai corridor is a high-density route, popular among both general commuters and business travellers. The plan aims to reduce Bengaluru-Mysuru travel to 45–60 minutes, while potential extensions from Mysuru to Mangaluru could further enhance connectivity across South India. The track will be around 84 percent elevated, 11 percent in tunnels, and the remainder at ground level, with detailed designs prepared for river crossings, bridges, canals, roads, and highways.

Budget fails high-tax states

Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre reacted to the Budget. "The Budget is completely disappointing. There are no significant reforms, and no control over government expenditure. Karnataka has not received any notable benefits from this Budget," he said. While the Hyderabad–Bengaluru high-speed rail corridor received attention, the central government has once again failed to ensure minimum support prices (MSP) for all crops grown by farmers, Khandre added.

Highlighting the broader economic challenges, Khandre said that unemployment has increased over the past 12 years. The central government's promise of two crore jobs annually has largely failed to materialise. "This Budget offers no new schemes to generate employment for youth in the state. It is like filling new wine into an old bottle," he remarked.

> **"There are no significant reforms, and no control over government expenditure. Karnataka has not received any notable benefits from this Budget**
>
> –Eshwar B Khandre, Environment Minister

Meanwhile, Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil said on Sunday that while the Union Budget's announcement on developing high-speed rail corridors between Bengaluru-Hyderabad and Bengaluru-Chennai is welcome, it offers limited benefit.

The Minister said that instead, a similar corridor should have been taken up between Bengaluru and Pune, adding that the members of Parliament from Karnataka and Maharashtra must raise this issue collectively and in a non-partisan manner. "In both the routes announced, the trains will not even operate for 100 kilometres within Karnataka," he said. He expressed disappointment that this aspect had not been taken into account by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government.

Reacting to the announcement of a high-speed train for Bengaluru, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar expressed doubts over its feasibility.

"What high-speed train? No speed train will come. The 50:50 funding model will not work. If necessary, we are ready for a 90:10 model, with the Centre contributing 90 per cent and the state 10 per cent. They have done this for other states, so they should do the same for Karnataka," he said.

–BMB and agencies

K'taka given Chombu, says CM

Terming the union budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Parliament as "disappointing", Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said it "lacks foresight".

The CM also claimed that a "big injustice" has happened to Karnataka.

"This budget is disappointing and lacks foresight. It only contains statements," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "Karnataka has not been given anything. Not only that, the entire south India hasn't been given anything in the budget. Karnataka has been given 'Chombu' (an empty small, round water container) in the budget."

"Only two things have been majorly mentioned about Karnataka is Bengaluru-Chennai and Hyderabad-Bengaluru high speed rail corridors in five years. This is of no benefit to Karnataka. It is more beneficial to Telangana and Tamil Nadu. We had asked for Bengaluru-Mumbai, Bengaluru-Mangaluru, and Bengaluru-Pune high speed rails," he added.

The finance minister has spoken about "Viksit Bharat" in the budget. "It is only for talk and not in deeds," the CM said.

He said there is no mention about the state's irrigation projects. "We had asked for Upper Bhadra and Upper Krishna projects to be declared as national projects."

The CM also hit out at the Centre for delays in clearances to river water projects like Mekedatu and Mahadayi.

Citing lesser allocations to the state in central grants, Siddaramaiah said, "A big injustice is happening to us." **–PTI**

The following are the highlights of the Union Budget 2026-27 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha

- No change in Income Tax rates
- Securities Transaction Tax (STT) raised on futures and options (F&O) to 0.05 pc and 0.15 pc
- TCS on sale of overseas tour packages slashed to 2 pc
- TCS on overseas education, medical expenses under LRS (Liberalised Remittance Scheme) cut to 2 pc
- New Income Tax Act, 2025, to be implemented from April 1; rules, forms to come soon
- ITR filing date for non-audit businesses extended by a month till August 31
- Share buyback for all types of shareholders to be taxed as capital gains. However, promoters will pay an additional buyback tax.
- Tax holiday up to 2047 for any foreign company for providing services globally from data centres in India
- Introduction of a one-time 6-month foreign asset disclosure scheme below a certain size for small taxpayers
- Immunity from prosecution with retrospective effect from October 1, 2024, for non-disclosure of non-immovable foreign assets with aggregate value less than Rs 20 lakh
- Fiscal deficit pegged at 4.3 pc of GDP in FY27, lower than 4.4 per cent in FY26
- Debt-to-GDP to be cut to 55.6 pc from 56.1 pc in the current fiscal year
- Total Budget size at Rs 53.5 lakh crore
- Govt capital expenditure hiked to Rs 12.2 lakh crore from Rs 11.11 lakh crore in FY26
- Rs 1.4 lakh crore to be devolved to states as tax share.
- Net tax receipts estimated at Rs 28.7 lakh crore
- Gross market borrowings estimated at Rs 17.2 lakh crore
- Budget focuses on 3 Kartavyas -- accelerating growth, fulfilling aspirations, and Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas
- Reform express on track, over 350 reforms rolled out
- Proposes Rs 10,000 crore SME Growth fund to create future champions
- Trust-based systems for Customs, advance ruling validity period extended to 5 years
- High-level committee to increase the services sector contribution to 10 pc by 2047.
- Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) is proposed to be made the final tax
- Customs Integrated System (CIS) to be rolled out in 2 years
- Exempts basic customs duty on 17 drugs for cancer patients
- Single and interconnected digital window for cargo clearance approvals
- Single-system clearance for food, drugs, plant, animal, and wildlife products covering 70 pc of interdicted cargo to go live by April 2026
- Tariff rate on all dutiable goods imported for personal use to be reduced from 20 pc to 10 pc
- Basic customs duty exemption on components and parts used in manufacturing civilian, training, and other aircraft.
- Duty-free personal import of drugs and food for 7 more rare diseases.
- Five tourism destinations to be created across the five Purvodaya states.
- 15 archaeological sites, including Lothal, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, Adichanallur, Sarnath, Hastinapur, and Leh Palace, to be developed as vibrant, experiential cultural destinations. **–PTI**

Volunteers turn garbage corner into vibrant civic landmark in Bengaluru

Seven-hour community drive transforms Padarayanapura black spot, residents pledge upkeep and celebrate collective ownership of their neighbourhood public space forever

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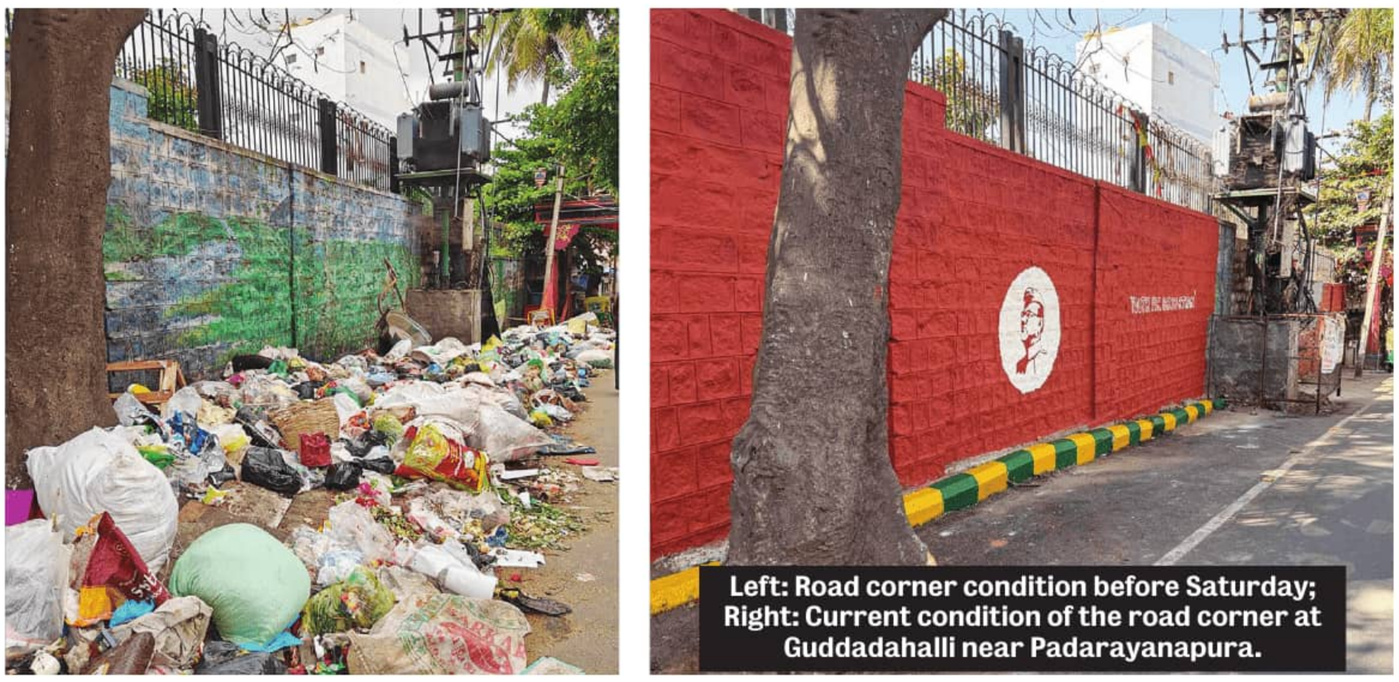


Left: Road corner condition before Saturday; Right: Current condition of the road corner at Guddadahalli near Padarayanapura.

Volunteers with GBA support clear waste, paint footpaths, create murals, and inspire locals to protect a once-neglected corner through sustained community participation and shared civic responsibility every single day now

Till Saturday, Guddadahalli near Padarayanapura in Bengaluru had a road corner that everyone knew but nobody liked. The corner looked like a heap of mixed waste. It had all types of waste, including food scraps, animal waste, broken debris, and plastic chaos. Waste had spilled onto half the road, testing the patience of residents and passersby alike. It wasn't just an eyesore. It was a daily reminder of neglect and a serious health hazard.

On Saturday, a group of volunteers, with the support of the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA), successfully cleared the garbage and debris. Volunteers of Youth for Parivarthan joined forces with a crash plan, and in just seven hours, brushes danced across dull walls. Footpath curbstones got a fresh coat of colour. Portraits of national and local legends rose from the concrete, watching over the street like silent guardians of civic pride. What was once a black spot turned into a bright spot.

"The most beautiful part? The local residents came forward and took a pledge to maintain the space. Because transformation is powerful... but ownership is permanent. A city does not change in speeches. It changes when hands get dirty and hearts get involved," said Amith Amarnath, founder president of Youth for Parivarthan.

It is amazing to see volunteers, most of whom are techies and employees, participating in cleaning programmes instead of spending their leisure time shopping at a mall or watching a movie. "I am very happy to participate in cleaning programmes. I came across Youth for Parivarthan through social media. I have been participating in beautification of black spots since 2016. I think Saturday's cleaning programme is my 50th participation. Generally, everybody keeps complaining about garbage on roads and footpaths, but nobody takes the initiative to remove garbage from roads and footpaths. We, volunteers of Youth for Parivarthan, believe in solving problems rather than complaining," said Bhagyashree Adyanthaya, a volunteer.

Raghavendra Hebbar, an IT employee who participated in the cleaning programme on Saturday, said that he has been taking part in such drives for the last six years. "It gives me immense satisfaction, and I feel happy to be part of the cleaning programme. We had earlier beautified a footpath at another location in Padarayanapura. The residents and GBA marshals kept a vigil for a few months to keep the footpath free from garbage dumping. Now, we have beautified another footpath. I allocate my leisure time during weekends for participating in cleaning programmes," said Raghavendra Hebbar.

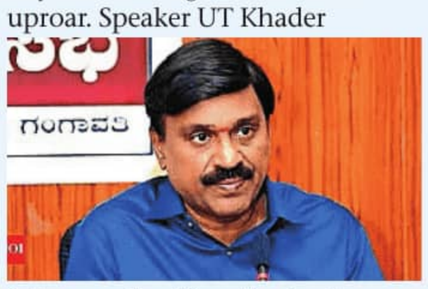
NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Chinese whispers

Whispers were making the rounds that Energy Minister KJ George was miffed over interference in his work and might even throw in the towel. When journalists pressed for clarity, Home Minister G Parameshwara brushed it off, saying there was no such news and that George himself had already cleared the air. "When he has clarified, what more can I add?" he quipped. Asked about the mysterious "friends" spreading the gossip, Parameshwara kept it delightfully vague. "Could be many friends... some good old friends, some media friends," he said, leaving everyone guessing.

Heated exchange

In a fiery session in the Assembly last week, Ballari Rural Congress MLA Nagendra accused Gangavathi MLA Janardhana Reddy of spreading falsehoods and misleading the public during a discussion on the Governor's speech. Reddy fired back, rejecting the term "Republic of Ballari" and insisting he never threatened anyone, leaving the House in uproar. Speaker UT Khader



intervened, calling the feud "useless fellows" and urging them to focus on development rather than personal battles.

Speaker's caution

During last week's Assembly session, Speaker UT Khader urged legislators to exercise restraint and introspection, ruling that members participating in the discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address should not comment on the Governor's conduct. He noted that events following the January 22 joint session address had sent a wrong message to the public and stressed that members' behaviour and remarks must uphold constitutional values and the dignity of the House.

Byrathi banter

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh couldn't resist a humorous dig during last Friday's marathon Assembly session, which ran from 9 am late into the night. Noting the long hours of debate, he quipped that if he had studied as intensely during school days, he could have become an IAS officer. As Speaker UT Khader read out the list of punctual members, Suresh added with a smile that most ministers and MLAs now come on time — a habit he joked should have been drilled into him in school to secure a better position. The Speaker chuckled, teasing, "Now you are in charge of controlling IAS and IPS officers, isn't it? Enough of that."

Inspector's screams

In a shocking and dramatic arrest, KP Agrahara Police Station Inspector Govindaraju was caught on camera accepting a ₹4 lakh bribe to favour an accused, and what surprised many was the loud, high-pitched screaming he let out while being apprehended by Lokayukta police at Chamarajpet ground. The video, now viral on social media, shows him thrashing and shouting in a cinematic display of rage, desperately trying to escape arrest. Despite his theatrics, Lokayukta sleuths ensured all attempts to flee were futile. "Normally, we do not record videos during such operations, but the accused's bizarre and loud reaction made it necessary to capture it," said one of the officers present during the operation. — Sridhar Vivan

Activists slam Bandipur tunnel proposal

Environmentalists and wildlife experts have strongly opposed the Centre's proposal to form an expert committee to study the feasibility of a tunnel road through Bandipur Tiger Reserve to allow night traffic between Karnataka and Kerala. They questioned why such ideas are repeatedly raised despite a standing ban on night-time vehicular movement imposed by the Supreme Court of India, warning of widespread protests against any construction inside the forest, including tunnels or flyovers.

Activists argue that even discussing the project violates the spirit of the court order, which is still under consideration, and accuse authorities of politicising Bandipur. Wildlife experts note that Karnataka has already spent ₹175 crore developing an alternative route for Kerala and stress that the night traffic ban, in force since 2009, has significantly reduced accidents that earlier killed elephants, tigers, leopards and deer. They also caution that tunnelling could disrupt underground water systems and irreversibly damage the fragile ecosystem. Many environmentalists are reiterating long-standing demands to shut the road entirely, warning of large-scale agitation if the Centre moves ahead. — BMB

Actor Jayamala wins KFCC presidency

Senior actress and former minister Jayamala was elected president of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) on Saturday, defeating film producer Ba Ma Harish in a closely watched contest. Jayamala secured 512 votes out of a total 846 polled, winning by a margin of 178 votes, while Harish managed 334 votes. This marks Jayamala's second term as KFCC president; she earlier held the post between 2008 and 2010.

Expressing gratitude after her victory, Jayamala said she was honoured by the trust placed in her by the chamber's members. Acknowledging the challenges facing the Kannada film industry, she said she may not be able to resolve every issue but would make sincere efforts to find workable solutions. She described her election as an opportunity to give back to an industry that had given her name, fame, and a long professional career.

In other key results, Sunder Rajan MK was elected vice-president after defeating Priya Hassan by 154 votes, polling 391 against her 237. Manju K of Manju Cinemas won another vice-presidential post, beating Sunil Kumar RM by 254 votes, while Kishore Kumar MN defeated Ramesh M by 156 votes. Ganesh A was elected secretary, overcoming Siddaraju TP (Duniya) by a margin of 183 votes. Ramesh Babu MR, who polled 494 votes, and Ashok KC, with 595 votes, were also elected as secretaries. Jayasimha Musuri BK was elected treasurer, defeating Narasimha A by 56 votes. — BMB

BM SIMPLY PUT

All about new labour safety and registration rules introduced to strengthen worker protection across Karnataka

Rights on the clock

The Karnataka government has introduced new rules to ensure workplace safety, health, and transparency for workers across the state. These regulations apply to factories, commercial establishments, and construction sites, focusing on medical checks, work hours, safety committees, and female worker protection. Employers now have clear responsibilities, and violations may invite penalties or legal action.

Who needs to undergo medical tests?
Every worker above 40 years of age must undergo a mandatory medical examination once a year. Employers must conduct this test within the first 120 days of each calendar year and provide the report to the worker.

What are the employer's responsibilities in case of accidents?
If there is a fatal or serious accident at the workplace, the employer must immediately inform the labour inspector and police authorities via phone and submit an official report within 12 hours.

How do employers register their establishments?
Registration is mandatory for factories with more than 20 workers and commercial establishments with more than 10 workers. Employers must register through the government portals 'Karmika Spandana' or 'e-Suraksha'.

Are official appointment letters required?
Yes. Employers must provide an official appointment letter to all new employees. Additionally, within 7 days of leaving, a worker must receive a certificate of experience to ensure job security and assistance in future employment opportunities.

What are the fees for registration?
Registration fees vary based on the number of workers. For commercial establishments with 10 or more workers, fees range from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1,25,000, while for factories with 20 or more workers, fees range from Rs 5,000 to Rs 95,000 depending on the size of the establishment.

What are the new work hour rules?
Weekly work cannot exceed 48 hours. Daily work, including rest breaks, cannot exceed 10 hours. Workers must be given at least a 30-minute break after 5 continuous hours of work.

How are female workers protected?
Night shifts must assign a minimum of five female workers per group. Separate accommodation and mess facilities must be provided if needed, and female security guards are mandatory at entry and exit points.

What workplace safety measures are required?
Safety committees must be formed in establishments exceeding specified worker numbers, with worker and female representation. Workers can report immediate threats to life or health, and employers must act promptly. Safety officers are mandatory in factories: one for every 500–1,000 workers, with additional officers for larger workplaces. Hazardous areas like tanks, gas chambers, or pipes must be tested for safe air quality before entry.

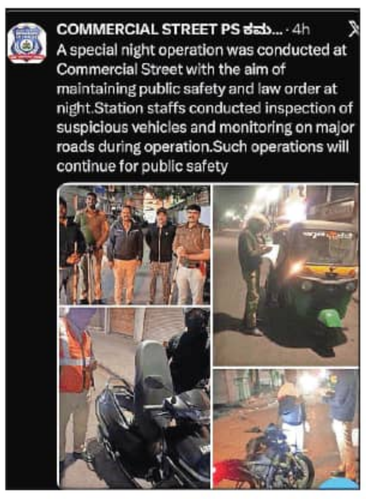
What are leave and wage obligations?
Every worker is entitled to paid leave and medical leave based on working hours, and employers must maintain these records in an official register.

SOCIALTATTLE

THAT WENT VIRAL

ONO Keiichi, Ambassador of Ja... X.com
@JapanAmbIndia
Dropped by Pizza 4P's in Bengaluru 🍕
Founded by Japanese entrepreneurs in Ho Chi Minh City, now loved across Asia — with branches in Japan 🇯🇵 and here in India 🇮🇳 too.
Easily the best pizza I've had in India so far!

With outlets in Japan and India, a pizza outlet in the city was praised by Ono Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, who posted about it on social media, writing, "Dropped by Pizza 4P's in Bengaluru. Founded by Japanese entrepreneurs in Ho Chi Minh City and loved across Asia."


COMMERCIAL STREET PS ಕಬ್... · 4h
A special night operation was conducted at Commercial Street with the aim of maintaining public safety and law order at night.Station staffs conducted inspection of suspicious vehicles and monitoring on major roads during operation.Such operations will continue for public safety

A special night operation at Commercial Street was highlighted by @Blr-CityPolice, focusing on public safety and law and order.

WHAT'S TWEETING

Ultra Instinct @MaJin_TRON · 5h
Rajajinagar @RameshwaramCafe has a seperate parking for cars. Where? In the middle of the circle towards malleshwaram and yeshwantpur. This is happening everyday and causing issue every night. What is @rajajinagartrps doing? Why favouring them? #neglect #nocare

A social media user highlighted that in Rajajinagar, a popular cafe is using the middle of a busy circle as car parking every night, which is causing chaos on the roads, but the authorities are biased, the post says.

Herbal traders from K'taka stranded in Chad over visa row

As many as eight members of the Hakki Pikki tribal community from Karnataka, including three women, are stranded in the African nation of Chad after running into trouble over visa renewal, leaving them without passports and under threat of arrest. The group had travelled to Chad's capital N'Djamena nearly a year ago to trade in herbal products, a livelihood many from the community pursue across African countries. They applied for visa extension well before expiry, but alleged that immigration officials deliberately delayed the process, later accusing them of overstaying illegally and confiscating their passports.

The victims claim officials demanded US $ 2,000 per person to renew the visas, failing which they were threatened with jail. With no money to pay and no documents to prove their identity, the group has now moved to Abeche, around 900 km from the capital, fearing detention. Community leaders say appeals to the Indian Embassy in Chad have not yielded concrete help so far. The stranded traders have urged the Indian and Karnataka governments to intervene urgently and bring them back home safely. **–BMB**

B'luru loses Rs 2,300 cr grant over delayed civic elections

Bengaluru local administration has paid a heavy price for the continued delay in BBMP elections, losing out on Rs 2,304 crore in Central grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. With municipal polls not held on time and the city being run by administrators since 2020, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) became ineligible for the funds meant exclusively for elected urban local bodies. Mumbai and a few other major civic bodies have also missed out on similar grants for the same reason.

Sources said that the tenure of the 15th Finance Commission, constituted in 2021, ended on January 31, 2026. Under its guidelines, Central funds are released annually only to civic bodies with elected councils so that representatives can use the money for development works. As BBMP has not had an elected council for nearly five years, the cumulative loss to Bengaluru alone stands at over Rs 2,300 crore. **–BMB**

Cameras prove traffic fine boosters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

50% waiver on pending violations, per-minute collections jumped to ₹353, with overall fines reaching ₹185 crore. Now, in 2025, Bengaluru has more than tripled the per-minute revenue compared to 2014–16, showing a cumulative increase of nearly 275% over the decade. "Automated enforcement has been a game changer," an official added.

"Cameras capture violations in real time, and offenders receive digital challans instantly. This reduces human intervention and ensures transparency."

Strategic campaigns

The record ₹251.26 crore collected in 2025 was also driven by focused campaigns targeting pending cases and repeated violators. Between August 23 and September 14, a special drive offering 50 percent waiver cleared 3.86 lakh cases, collecting ₹106 crore. In a follow-up campaign in November, over 2.47 lakh cases were settled, adding ₹7.02 crore more.

"The huge collection of fines is an eye-opener for drivers. The fines are not just numbers; they reflect how frequently rules are being flouted and the scale of enforcement required to manage city traffic," said Ravi Kumar, a college professor.

Experts believe that real-time monitoring and digital challans are crucial in a congested city like Bengaluru.

"When motorists know they can be fined instantly, they are more likely to follow rules. This is how technology is turning traffic fines into both a deterrent and a source of revenue for public safety," said Chiatravathi Gowda, a techie.

WHO'S WHO OF POWERFUL MEN NAMED IN EPSTEIN FILES

From Musk to ex-prince Andrew

From tech titans to Wall Street power brokers and foreign dignitaries, a who's who of powerful men make appearances in the huge trove of documents released Friday by the Justice Department in connection with its investigations of Jeffrey Epstein. Many have denied having close ties to the late financier, or at least having anything to do with his alleged sexual abuse of girls and young women that led to his arrest on sex trafficking charges.

None have been charged with a crime connected to the investigation. Epstein killed himself in a Manhattan jail cell in 2019. Yet some of them maintained friendships with Epstein, or developed them anew, even after he became known as a predator of young girls and registered sex offender. Here's a primer on some of the notable names in the Epstein files:

Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor

The man formerly known as Britain's Prince Andrew has long been dogged by questions about his relationship with Epstein, including allegations from the late Virginia Roberts Giuffre that she was trafficked by Epstein and instructed to have sex with

A car leaves through Bishops Gate Entrance near Royal Lodge, a property on the estate around Windsor Castle, where Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, resides

Mountbatten-Windsor when she was 17. The former prince has repeatedly denied that it happened, but his brother, King Charles III, still stripped him of his royal titles late last year, including the right to be called a prince and the Duke of York.

Mountbatten-Windsor's name appears at least several 100 times in Friday's document release, including in Epstein's private emails. Among the correspondence is an invitation for Epstein to dine at Buckingham Palace, Epstein's offer to introduce Mountbatten-Windsor to a 26-year-old Russian woman, and photos that appear to show Mountbatten-Windsor kneeling over an unidentified woman lying on the floor.

Elon Musk

The billionaire Tesla founder turns up at least a few times in Friday's document release, notably in email exchanges in 2012 and 2013 in which he discussed visiting Epstein's infamous Caribbean island compound.

But it's not immediately clear if the island visits took place. Spokespersons for Musk's companies, Tesla and X, didn't respond to emails seeking comment Friday or Saturday.

Musk has maintained that he repeatedly turned down the disgraced financier's overtures. "Epstein tried to get me to go to his island and I REFUSED," he posted on X in 2025.

Richard Branson

The billionaire founder of the Virgin Group, a global conglomerate, exchanged emails with Epstein in the years after he pleaded guilty to soliciting sex from a minor and agreed to register as a sex offender in Florida in 2008. In a 2013 exchange, Branson invited Epstein to his own Caribbean island, which regularly hosts conferences, charity events and business meetings.

"Any time you're in the area would love to see you," he wrote. "As long as you bring your harem!" In another message that year, he suggested Epstein rehabilitate his image by convincing Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates to tell the public how Epstein had "been a brilliant adviser to him" and had "more than learnt your lesson and have done nothing that's against the law since."

The company stressed in a statement Saturday that there was no wrongdoing on Branson's part and that any dealings with Epstein were "limited to group or business settings" more than a decade ago. Branson also declined a charitable donation and decided not to meet or speak with him again after his team "uncovered serious allegations," the company said.

Casey Wasserman

The president of the committee for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles exchanged flirty emails with Epstein confidant Ghislaine Maxwell, Friday's document release shows. Wasserman released a statement Saturday saying he never had a personal or business relationship with Epstein and he regretted the correspondence with Maxwell. **AP**

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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*10** DAYS
FEB: 6, 8*, 11, 12**, 15*, 16, 21, 22* 22**, 26 MAR: 3, 8, 13, 18, 23

ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS
FEB: 8*, 11, 15*, 21, 22* MAR: 1*, 2, 8*, 12, 15*, 22, 22*

SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7* DAYS
FEB: 9*, 15, 16*, 22, 23*, 30* MAR: 1, 8, 9*, 15, 16*, 22, 23*

KERALA SPECIAL/ NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN* 7/4* DAYS
FEB: 9*, 15, 16*, 22, 23* MAR: 1, 2*, 8, 9*, 15, 16* 22, 23*, 29

SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE FEB: 16, 23* MAR: 2, 9, 16, 23

SOUTH INDIA 9*/11 DAYS EX: HUBBALLI FEB: 18, MAR: 1, 1* 9*, 12, 19*, 23

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Focus on everyday stress, emotional regulation, relationships

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ranging from early marriage to several years later. Many men reported persistent feelings of unhappiness, tension, worry, sleep disturbances, poor appetite, loss of interest, and difficulty making decisions- symptoms commonly associated with depression and anxiety.

Importantly, the study found that while levels of psychological distress and functional impairment were high, with an average disability level of over 34%, help-seeking from mental health professionals remained low.

The study also found that men expressed generally positive attitudes towards seeking professional help, suggesting that reluctance may stem less from lack of awareness and more from stigma, role expectations, and absence of accessible pathways to care.

Dr E Aravind Raj, Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, says, taken together, this highlights a clear gap between men's psychological distress and their engagement with support systems. This also underlines the need for structured, preventive, and skill-based wellness programmes that address everyday stress, emotional regulation, relationships, and functioning rather than focusing only on illness or crisis."

To address this gap, NIMHANS has introduced a men's wellness programme aimed at helping men recognise their mental health needs, redefine what wellness means for them, and learn practical skills to manage stress and regulate emotions.

"The Men's Wellness Program builds on this evidence by offering men an accessible space to engage with mental health and well-being in a holistic and non-stigmatising way," Dr Raj said.

Dr KS Meena, Professor and Head, Department of Mental Health Education, said that most mental health initiatives are either clinical in nature or crisis-oriented, with limited focus on early engagement, emotional literacy, stress management, or everyday functioning for men.

"Men today are navigating new and compounding pressures: job insecurity, long working hours, migration for employment, financial responsibility for extended families, caregiving for ageing parents, and changing expectations within intimate relationships. Many men are also experiencing loneliness, reduced peer support, and limited spaces to speak openly about their issues," Dr Meena said.

The Men's Wellness Program will encourage men to adopt the message that physical health is a foundation for emotional and mental well-being and vice-versa, teaching them to view self-care not as indulgence but as an essential part of maintaining balance, said Ayushman Shakya, Fellowship Student, Department of Mental Health Education.

Speaking about the positive outcomes of the programme, Dr Latha K, Associate Professor, Department of Mental Health Education, said participants will leave with simple, evidence-based practices that can be easily integrated into their daily lives.

"These include learning to recognise stress early before it escalates, techniques to centre and ground the body during anxious moments, and skills to identify and name emotions to reduce emotional overwhelm.

The programme also helps participants understand their personal stress patterns and how to respond to unhelpful stressors, while equipping them with practical strategies to cope with work-related stress and set healthy boundaries," she said.

HEALTH TIP: Green gram is one of the easiest lentils to digest, making it gentle on the stomach while still providing a solid boost of protein

A single cup of chickpeas is loaded with protein, fiber, and essential minerals like iron and magnesium

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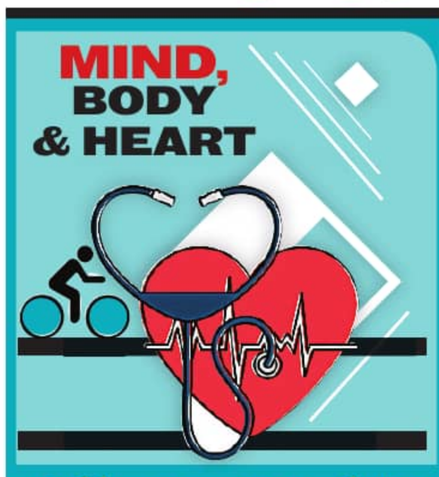


All you need to know about...

Mood-boosting activities

1. Breakfast With A Beat
Begin your day with a creative breakfast challenge. Choose a new recipe or try making something you have never attempted before, such as pancakes in fun shapes, a vibrant smoothie bowl, or your own coffee art. Let the music fill the kitchen, and enjoy grooving while you cook. Preparing something fresh and playful in the morning is a delightful way to spark your creativity and set a positive tone for the day.

2. At-Home Spa Afternoon
Pamper yourself with an at home spa session. Face mask, long shower, relaxed oil massage for hair, body scrub and creative nail paints, the options are endless. Slip into your cosiest pyjamas, watch your favourite film or series and relax. Light a few candles, pour yourself a cup of tea and take your time to enjoy every moment.

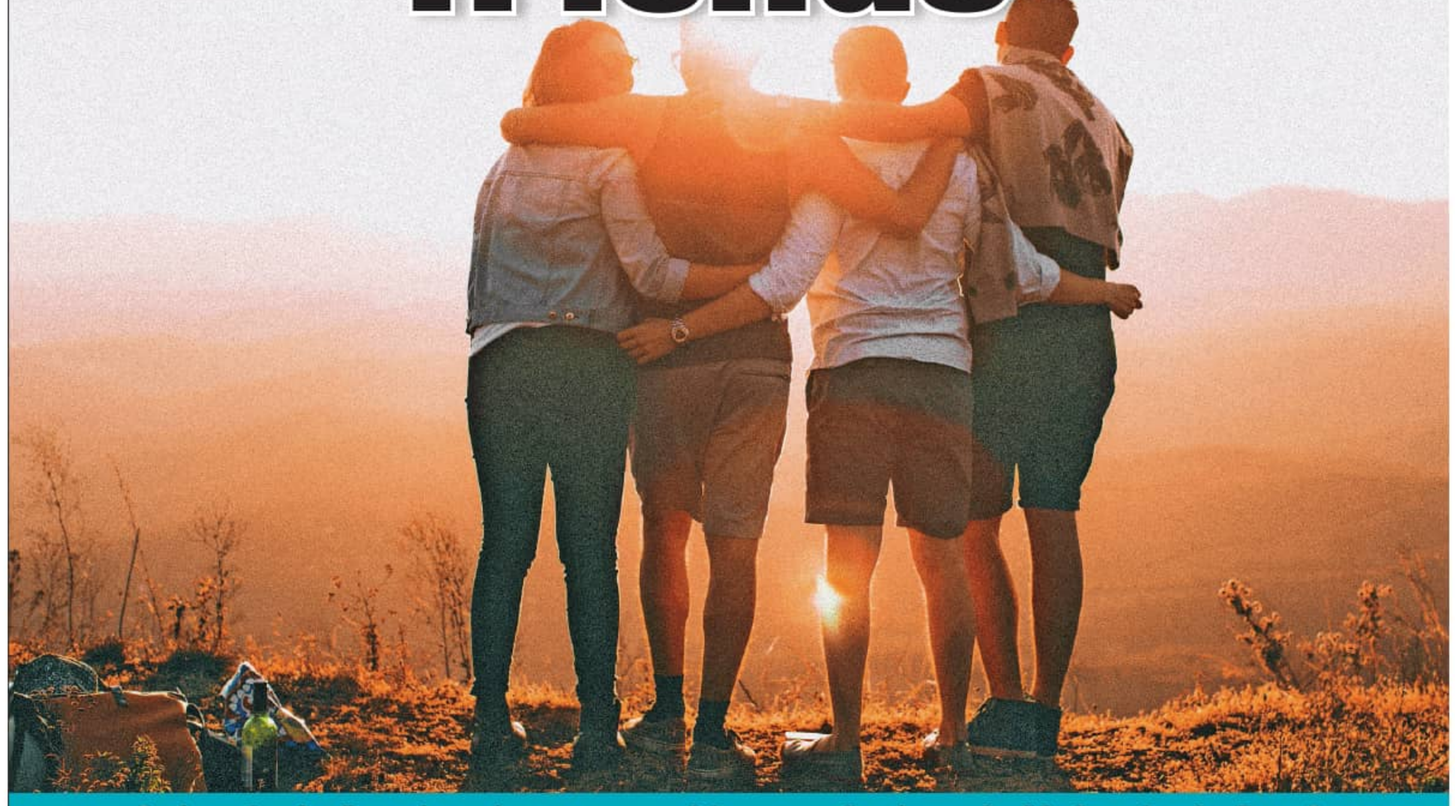
3. Date Yourself
Go out for a meal you have been longing to try, or catch that film you have been wanting to watch at the cinema. Go shopping for clothes that make you feel fabulous or simply spend some time doing something just for you. Dress up a bit before you head out and treat the occasion like a proper date, so it feels special rather than lonely.

4. Artist of The Day
Roll up your sleeves, slip on your apron, and set out a sheet of paper or canvas with your paints. Choose a soothing playlist and let the music guide your creativity as you paint something just for yourself. There is no need to be an artist; let go of any pressure to create something perfect.

4. Mini digital detox
Step away from your screen for a bit. No phone, no scrolling—just you. Constant notifications can drain your energy before you even realise it. Go make yourself a cup of tea and take a walk on your terrace, look around, and simply breathe deeply.

–Femina

Just good friends



Galentine's Day has become a thing – why hasn't Malentine's Day?

On February 13, women will celebrate Galentine's Day, a holiday trumpeting the joys of female friendships.

The holiday can trace its origins to a 2010 episode of "Parks and Rec," in which the main character, Leslie Knope, decides that the day before Valentine's Day should be an opportunity to celebrate the platonic love among women, ideally with booze and breakfast food.

In the years since the episode aired, the fictional holiday has caught on in the real world.

But why hasn't there been a male equivalent?

If anything, it seems that men should crave such a holiday. As a sociologist who studies gender, culture and politics, I know that men are reporting that they feel increasingly isolated as they age, and that this isolation can negatively affect their physical and mental health.

But it seems that a set of cultural pressures prevent a holiday like "Malentine's Day" from catching on.

Age and isolation

For one, men have more difficulty making and keeping friends as they age.

This could be due to the fact that male friendships are often activity-based, with men often bonding while participating in shared social activities, whether it's playing cards or watching sports. But as men enter the workforce, their availability for clubs, sports teams and social groups ebbs. As they find themselves increasingly focusing on their careers and families, it virtually disappears.

Other men have noted that they're afraid that close male friendships will be perceived as "girly." Similarly, openly admitting that you crave close relationships might be seen as weak or needy – the opposite of the stoic male celebrated in American culture.

Whatever the reason, men report that the number of close friends they have shrinks dramatically during middle age.

The really bad news for men is that their friendship networks rarely strengthen after the kids are out of the house and they retire.

And a reversal of fortune in men's friendships seems unlikely. In fact, men seem to be getting more socially isolated over time. Men report having fewer friends in 2004 than they did in 1985.

> **Male friendships are activity-based, with men often bonding while engaging in social activities such as watching sports**

Friendship out of the spotlight

Even for men that do have a big group of male friends, there seem to be some cultural barriers that prevent the full-throated, public celebration of male affinity and companionship.

One is the cultural expectation that "real men" aren't supposed to be emotional – something that's hammered into boys from a young age. So even when men have close male friend groups, a public celebration might be seen as sappy and antithetical to real manhood.

Even men who try to break the mold of gender stereotypes or show that they are in touch with their feminine sides still feel pressured to demonstrate their manhood to others. For example, men can be supportive and caring, but still feel compelled to prove that they are the breadwinners for their families.

This doesn't mean that men's relationships are doomed to be shallow. Men often prefer actions over words to signal that they care about someone, and these performances – particularly ones involving friendship and love – tend to be understated. Men might show friends they care by helping them move furniture, or show partners affection by running errands or doing chores around the house.

In other words, the ways men form and celebrate friendship don't lend themselves well to boozy group breakfasts that can be photographed and liked on social media.

(Deana Rohlinger, Florida State University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

How parents can raise emotionally strong and confident daughters

Childhood is the time all adults go back to figure out who they are, why they are the way they are, and what makes them, them. A moment of low self-esteem can make anyone question the things they have believed in so far. Everything goes back to the origin, childhood. As opposed to the outdated idea of raising tender women who speak ever so softly to be barely heard, times have thankfully changed. It is important to give a voice to everyone, especially to the little girls, for whom we only want the best of everything. And it all starts at home.

Breaking The Pattern

If parents want their daughter to grow up and be unfazed by the adversity life and the world throws at they can actually make it happen.

"For generations, girls have been taught to be agreeable and likeable. Today, what matters more is building self-trust outside of public opinions, actively seeking financial and emotional independence. And the capacity to tolerate being disliked, so they can voice discomfort, set boundaries, and live with equality rather than approval," says Mumbai-based psychotherapist and founder of Dialogue Mental Health, Ayesha Sharma. "These skills arm them with what is necessary to bear difficulties and hold onto their own as young adults."

Support Them

It's important to support daughters through self-doubt, comparison, and external pressure without becoming overprotective or dismissive of their emotions. And it is very much doable. The children often see themselves through the eyes of their parents.

A strong self-concept is inculcated in young girls by parents who see them positively. This foundation is non-negotiable as it becomes the voice young people internalise and can shield against moments of self-doubt. "The most crucial role you can play as parents is to hold your child in positive regard even when asking them to be accountable and responsible, and to model the behaviours you do not wish they replicate," explains Ayesha. "If you want them to not compare themselves to others, ensure you do not do that to them or yourself." Parents eventually see their own reflection in their kids.

To have that perfect balance and not become overprotective, Ayesha adds, "Acknowledge that you may not be able to prevent them from every negative feeling or experience. The hope howeverr is that when they do feel those things, they can turn to you for honest sharing and feedback!"

–Parul Karn, Femina

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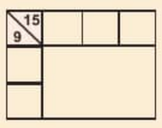
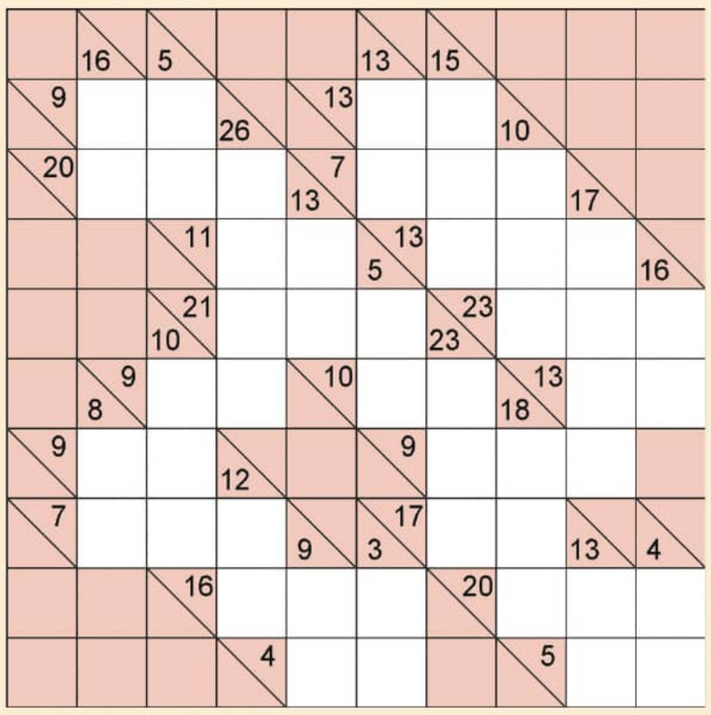
Kakuro

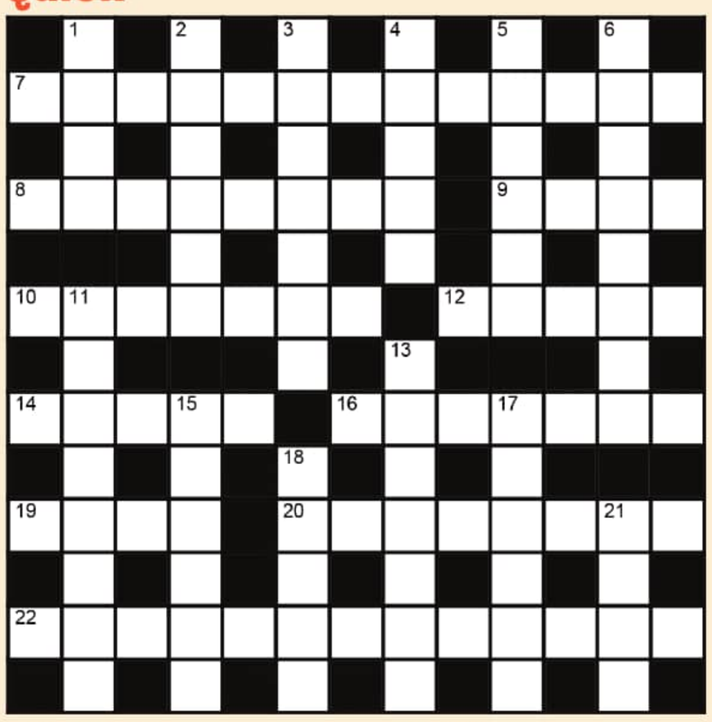
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Clandestine (13)
8 Horrified or shocked (8)
9 Lasting pain (4)
10 Not as heavy (7)
12 Stretchy synthetic fabric (5)
14 Otherwise ? (2,3)
16 Straight-faced (7)
19 Temptation or decoy (4)
20 National park between Mysore and Ooty (8)
22 Belief that, after death, the soul is reborn in a new body (13)

DOWN

1 Ditch or discard (4)
2 Make a gap in, break through (6)
3 Put on or laid on (7)
4 Breezy (5)
5 Robbery at sea (6)
6 Feeling of great elation (8)
11 Fills with air (8)
13 Sense intended? (7)
15 Choosing or selecting (6)
17 Wanders aimlessly (6)
18 WWII German Submarine (1-4)
21 Alien craft (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS D

BVYI HCS FOY KCIRYIR RC XY LANEGH HCSOLYGU FIW WCI'R KCNEFOY CO KCNEYRY, YTY-OHXCWH BAGG OYLEYKR HCS.

Linemaro

Kissing is the language of love, so how about a conversation?

Mindchow

The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests; just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts

Joke of the day

My father was a simple man; my mother was a simple woman; you see the result standing in front of you, a simpleton

Loop

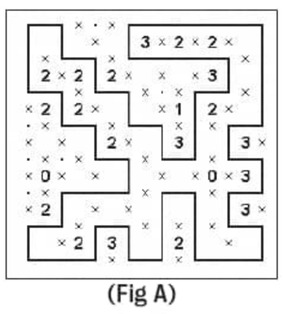
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

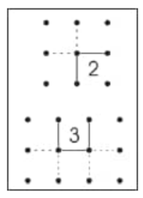
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

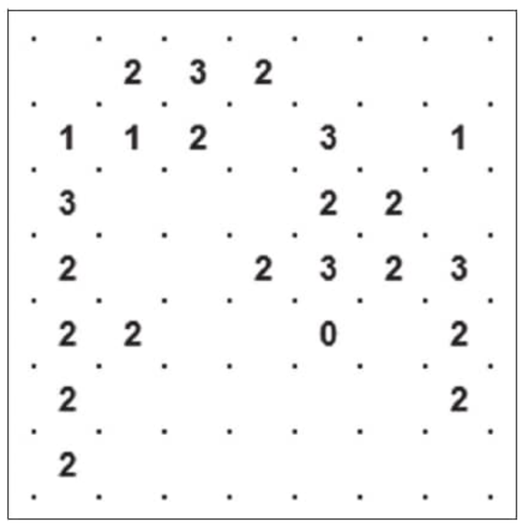
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



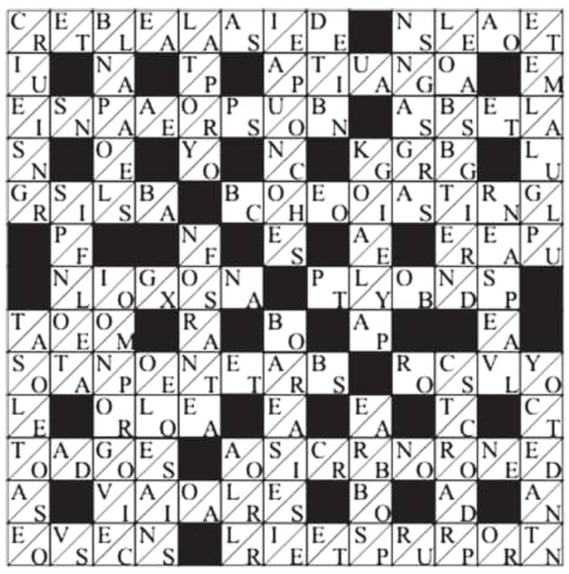
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9	W			

ACROSS

1 SS Hat; 6 He Cut;
7 Rad or; 8 Roils;
9 We oak

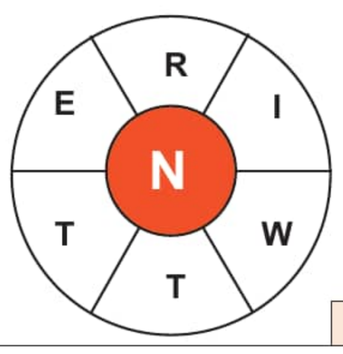
DOWN

1 As lac; 2 Worth;
3 I a duo; 4 To SRK;
5 Sheer

Mensapuzzle

Which number goes in the empty square?

3	7	10
4	11	15
6	4	



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			1	9			8	
4	6				7		9	
			2		4			
	8	1				6		5
5				2				7
7		9				8	3	
			4		5			
	5		6				4	1
	1			7	3			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 8

1 4 5 8

Medium = 20

3 3 7 7

Hard = 18

5 7 9 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

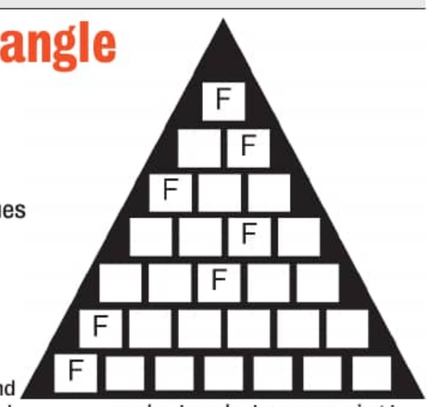
Differences: 1. Roof is smaller. 2. Window is moved. 3. Boy's arm is lower. 4. Dog's paw is moved. 5. Rug is moved. 6. Dog's spot is missing.

Riddler

A menace, I creep. Silent and slow, Obscuring your vision and things that you know. My blanket enfolds you, but won't keep you warm. You glimpse things familiar, But I change their form. By the sound of my horn, know that danger is near; By night or bright day. It warns you to steer clear. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 6th letter
2 Providing
3 Ready
4 Screen; pan
5 Presents
6 Quarrels or argues
7 Scares



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

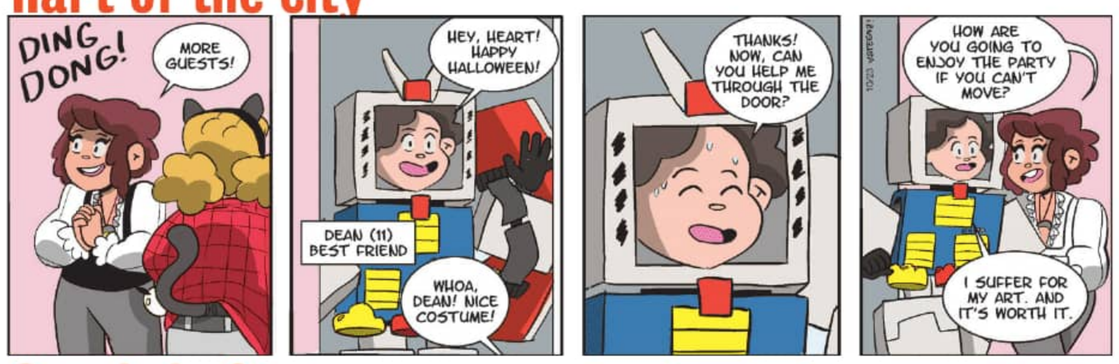
THE WOMEN DO ALL THE WORK IN DUNDER!
YA MEANS OLIVE WON'T BE A REAL QUEEN?
SHE'LL BE A QUEEN, BUT ONLY ONE OF ABOUT SIX HUNDRED!
WHEN THE KING NEEDS MORE PALACE HELP, HE MARRIES ANOTHER QUEEN!
WOE!
OLIVE
5-3
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

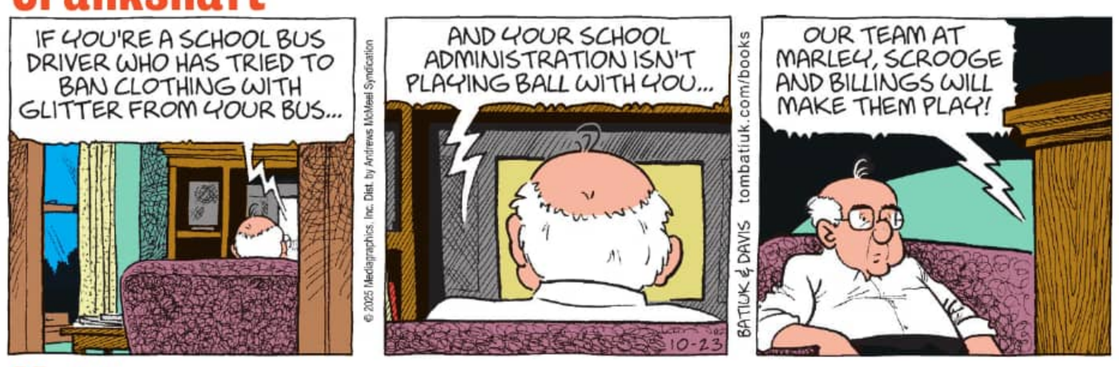
Diamond Lil

DO YOU REMEMBER TRICK-OR-TREATING, HOWARD?
REMEMBER?! I STILL TRICK-OR-TREAT!
EACH TUESDAY I PUT ON A TUTU AND A HOCKEY MASK AND KNOCK ON EVERY DOOR IN MY APARTMENT BUILDING!
I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS
IT'S ALL IN THE POLICE REPORTS!
www.creators.com

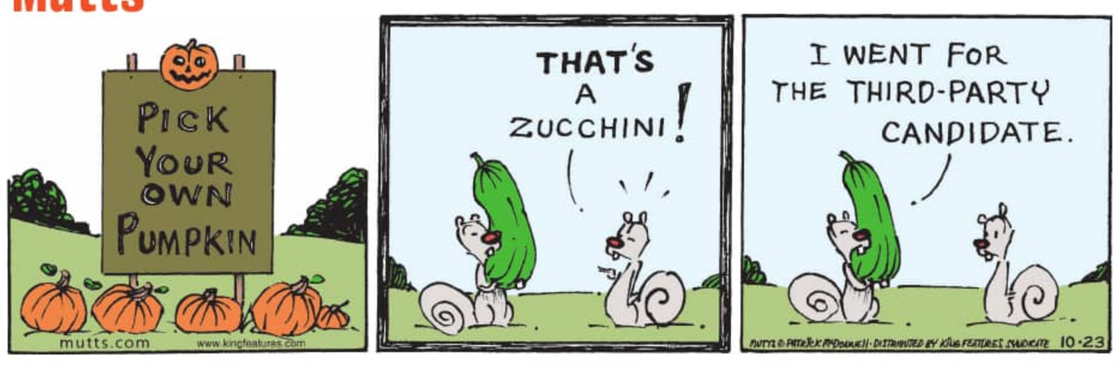
Hart of the city


DING DONG!
MORE GUESTS!
HEY, HEART! HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
DEAN (11) BEST FRIEND
WHOA, DEAN! NICE COSTUME!
THANKS! NOW, CAN YOU HELP ME THROUGH THE DOOR?
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ENJOY THE PARTY IF YOU CAN'T MOVE?
I SUFFER FOR MY ART. AND IT'S WORTH IT.

Crankshaft


IF YOU'RE A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER WHO HAS TRIED TO BAN CLOTHING WITH GLITTER FROM YOUR BUS...
AND YOUR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION ISN'T PLAYING BALL WITH YOU...
OUR TEAM AT MARLEY, SCROOGE AND BILLINGS WILL MAKE THEM PLAY!
tombatiuk.com/books
10-23

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your upcoming year emphasizes intellectual growth and domestic harmony. Career opportunities arise through unexpected networking during spring travels. In romance, prioritise clear communication to avoid late-summer misunderstandings. A significant shift in your living situation brings long-awaited peace. Focus on wellness routines to maintain high energy levels. Financial gains are likely through creative side projects started during the cooler months.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Believe in your inner strength today and cast aside all doubts. By setting your own rules and taking charge, you will find that everything aligns perfectly for your ultimate success.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

A beautiful new chapter begins now as you embrace personal growth. Celebrate your many achievements and draw inspiration from your progress. You are capable of turning every experience into wisdom.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Today is perfect for expanding your horizons through learning. Discovering new skills at work or insights about yourself will lead to incredible professional growth and personal clarity in your life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Harmony flows through all your relationships today, bringing joy and connection. You will notice wonderful progress with colleagues and loved ones alike. Embrace these positive bonds that support your journey.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Every challenge you face carries a valuable lesson for your bright future. Rise like a warrior and move forward with confidence. Your resilience ensures that you emerge stronger than ever.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Stay focused on your goals, as you have the power to overcome any obstacle. Your persistence will lead to great success. Trust in your ability to emerge victorious and strong.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Focus on activities and people that inspire you to be your very best. Honouring your true self brings immense fulfilment. Today is about growing into the person you admire today.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Your natural curiosity will lead you to wonderful new opportunities today. Keep your eyes open for exciting connections. Something very good is in store for you if you explore further.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Taking a moment for solitude today will provide you with valuable life perspective. Use this quiet time to guide your path toward your highest aspirations. Reflection leads to great clarity.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Prioritise your own happiness today by doing something you truly love. You deserve a life filled with joy. Focus on your well-being and enjoy the peace that follows your care.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Trust that the universe is working in your favour to create the life you desire. Follow small signs of motivation today. Wearing yellow will bring you extra luck and joy.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Take a moment to reflect on your interactions and nurture your most important relationships. Showing kindness to those you value ensures these vital bonds remain strong and full of love.

www.sundeepkochar.com

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Ashiya, Bengaluru

Kavitha, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER Fog

SOLVE IN 1M
= √[(√3)^(√(128/8))]
= √[(√3)^4]
= √[√81]
= √9 = 3

BULL'S EYE
inert, newt, rein, rent, tent, tine, tint, twin, twine, went, wine, winter, wren, WRITTEN

FAST FIVE

S	T	A	S	H
C	H	U	T	E
A	R	D	O	R
L	O	I	R	S
A	W	O	K	E

STRIKE OUT

R	E	L	E	A	S	E	D		S	L	A	T		
U		A		T		P	I	A	N	O		E		
S		V	I	A	L	S		B		A		B		
T	A	O	S		A	I	R	B	O	R	N	E		
E		R	O	E		A		E		C		C		
S	T	P	E	T	E	R	S		O	S	L	O		
T	O	M		R		B		A				A		
N	I	X	O	N		P	L	O	D	S				
F			F		S		A		E	A	U			
G	I	L	A		C	H	O	O	S	I	N	G		
N		E		Y		C		K	G	B		U		
I	N	P	E	R	S	O	N		A	B	E	L		
R	E	L	E	A	S	E	D		S	L	A	T		

QUICK

S				G			T		G		S			
R	E	I	N	C	A	R	N	A	T	I	O	N		
		T		I		O		I		F				
B	A	I	T		B	A	N	D	I	P	U	R		
	L		P		U		A		R					
I		F	N	O	T		D	E	A	D	P	A	N	
		N				D		M			I			
L	I	G	H	T	E	R		L	Y	C	R	A		
			C		I		Y		C		O			
A	P	P	A	L	L	E	D		A	C	H	E		
M		E		P		N		R		P				
S	U	R	R	E	P	T	I	T	I	O	U	S		
S		G		T		G		S			E			

MENSA PUZZLE
10. In rows, the centre number equals the difference between the left and right hand numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE
When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you.

SUDOKU

2	7	5	1	9	6	4	8	3
4	6	3	8	5	7	1	9	2
1	9	8	2	3	4	5	7	6
3	8	1	7	4	9	6	2	5
5	4	6	3	2	8	9	1	7
7	2	9	5	6	1	8	3	4
8	3	2	4	1	5	7	6	9
9	5	7	6	8	2	3	4	1
6	1	4	9	7	3	2	5	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
F, if, fit, sift, Gifts, Flights, Frights.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 5 − 1 − 4 = 8
3 + 7 + 7 + 3 = 20
Hard
7 + 9 + 7 − 5 = 18

LOOP

KAKURO

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In the line of fire

All the Bollywood celebs who faced gunshot incidents

Bollywood always looks so glamorous from the outside: red carpets, flashing lights, all that. But sometimes, things get messy when the cameras stop rolling. Over the years, a few Bollywood stars have found themselves in the middle of real-life gunfire. Some were just accidents, like a slip of the hand at home. Others were way more serious, with shootings tied to the underworld or rivalries that spilled into violence right outside studio gates.

Let's look at some gunshot incidents that shook Bollywood over the years. **–ETimes**

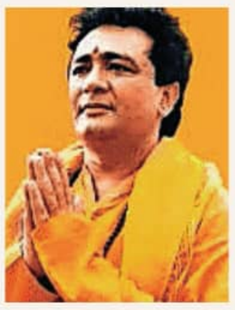
The forensic team and Mumbai Police collect evidence from the spot of gunfire at Rohit Shetty's house in Juhu, Mumbai

Gunshots fired outside Rohit Shetty's home

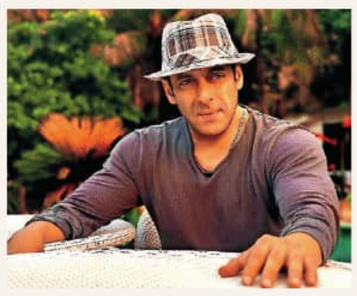
Late at night on February 1, 2026, gunshots rang out right outside filmmaker Rohit Shetty's home in Mumbai. For the unversed, Shetty is the one behind big action hits like 'Singham' and 'Sooryavanshi'. When the gunshots were fired, people nearby heard at least four shots, and there were actually bullet marks on the building. Thankfully, nobody got hurt. Shetty was inside when it happened. Police moved in fast, sealed off the area, and filed an FIR. However, no confirmed motive has been released yet.

Gulshan Kumar's fatal shooting

Gulshan Kumar's murder still haunts the industry. On August 12, 1997, he was on his way to a Mumbai temple when armed men shot him—sixteen times, no less. The attack was widely blamed on underworld extortion rackets. Kumar died on the spot, and the shockwaves hit hard, not just in music but throughout Bollywood. His death triggered national mourning and pushed everyone to take celebrity security a whole lot more seriously.



Near Salman Khan's residence



Salman Khan is one of those Bollywood stars who end up being on the receiving end of death threats time and again. His name popped up in headlines again in April 2024, but this time it wasn't for a new film. Late one night, gunshots rang out near his Bandra home in Mumbai. Police said some unknown shooters opened fire, but Salman wasn't even home; he was safe, thankfully. The news rattled the whole industry anyway. Police jumped on the case right away and tightened security around Salman's place.

Govinda's accidental self-inflicted shooting

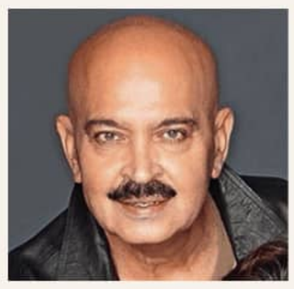
Govinda grabbed headlines in October 2024 for something no one expected. He accidentally shot himself in the leg at his Juhu home in Mumbai. He was putting his licensed revolver away in a cupboard when it went off. The bullet was lodged in his leg, and he had to rush to the hospital. Doctors pulled out the bullet, stitched him up—eight to ten stitches—and kept him under observation before letting him go home. Govinda took to social media to thank his fans and the medical team. He bounced back quickly, but the police seized his gun and launched an investigation.

Shooting threats at Disha Patani's house

Even as recently as September 2025, celebrity homes weren't safe from violence. Gunshots rang out outside Disha Patani's house in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. Police believed it was a backlash over some comments she was rumored to have made about religious figures. A gangster group led by Goldy Brar claimed they did it as a warning—not just for her, but for anyone thinking of crossing certain lines. Disha and her family were unharmed, but the incident put a spotlight on how security threats aren't just a Mumbai thing anymore.

Rakesh Roshan shot by gang members

This one shook Bollywood to its core. On January 21, 2000, two gunmen ambushed filmmaker Rakesh Roshan outside his office in Santacruz West, Mumbai. People said the attack was tied to underworld extortion, especially after his movie 'Kaho Naa… Pyaar Hai' became a blockbuster. The shooters hit his arm and grazed his chest, but Roshan didn't panic. He made it to the police station first, then to the hospital, where surgeons removed the bullet. Everyone saw the attack as a warning shot from the criminal gangs trying to control Bollywood back then. Roshan beat the odds, recovered, and came back to keep making movies.



Huma's 'best beauty hack'

Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi has shared what she calls her "best beauty hack," and it has nothing to do with makeup or skincare.

The actress believes that laughter is the simplest and most effective way to glow from within. Taking to Instagram, Huma shared a string of monochrome pictures of herself, accompanied by the caption, "Laughter is the best beauty hack."

The actress is all set to be seen in Yash-starrer "Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups". The makers had earlier unveiled the looks of Yash, Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Rukmini Vasanth, and Tara Sutaria of the film.

Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas and directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups has been simultaneously shot in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions planned in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and several other languages.

"Toxic : A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups" is reportedly a gripping tale of crime and deception set in 1980s Goa, where a powerful drug cartel manipulates lives behind the state's picturesque beaches and vibrant culture.

The film features a formidable technical lineup, including National Award-winning cinematographer Rajeev Ravi, music by Ravi Basrur, editing by Ujwal Kulkarni, and production design by TP Abid. **–IANS**

Part funny, part frightening

SEAT EDGE (KANNADA)
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Chethan Shetty
- **ACTORS** Siddu Moolimani, Raviksha Shetty, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Girish Shivanna, Mimicry Gopi, Lakshmi Siddaiah, and Kiran Gopi.
- **Duration** 128 minutes
- **Certification** UA

Seat Edge is Chethan Shetty's first film as a director. The movie is a mix of comedy and horror. While the first half is filled with comedy and romance, the post-intermission part is full of horror scenes that keep the audiences on the edge of their seats. Shetty has succeeded in handling the megaphone with aplomb.

The movie begins with a bald and bearded person being terrified at a guest house situated in a 'ghost' town when some other-worldly voices command him to handover a locket. The frightened man even jumps into a swimming pool but they refuse to leave him. The scene then shifts to Bengaluru where Police Sub-Inspector Shambunath (Girish Shivanna) is shown praying to God to bless him in all aspects. Shambhunath is assisted by police constable Belliswamy. Based on a complaint, Belliswamy brings Siddu (Siddu Moolimani), an IT employee, who has quit his job to become a YouTuber, and Raghu (Rathu Ramanakoppa), a yoga instructor and good friend of Siddu. Both are accused of making a video that claims that though the quality of food at a particular eatery is very good, people who eat there were admitted to hospital for treatment. Shambunath warns Siddu and Raghu not to repeat such mistakes.

Meanwhile, Siddu happens to meet Nandini (Raviksha Shetty) at a Yoga Centre maintained by Raghu. They become friends and she decides to support Siddu in making videos. She comes to know that Siddu uses computer-generated imagery. She hates him for using the CGI to become popular. Finally, Siddu decides to enter the ghost town. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Siddu and Nandini.

Siddu Moolimani has acted well. Character artiste Raghu Ramanakoppa plays a different character suffering from a peculiar disorder. Raviksha Shetty, Girish Shivanna, Mimicry Gopi, Lakshmi Siddaiah, and Kiran Gopi give good support.

The movie is worth a watch for those who get their thrills from horror.

–Y Maheswara Reddy